

DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), established under section 26-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and whose jurisdiction is detailed in chapter 171, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is headed by the Board of Land and Natural Resources. DLNR manages the State's public lands and the water and mineral resources on those lands. It also manages the State's aquatic life and wildlife resources, forest reserves, state parks, and small boat harbors, and administers the state conservation districts and the endangered species, natural area reserves, boating and ocean recreation, and historic preservation programs. The Department develops and enforces rules on conservation and resources. It also provides a central repository for all instruments of conveyances.

Board of Land and Natural Resources

The Board of Land and Natural Resources, generally provided for in the State Constitution, Article XI, section 2, and specifically provided for in sections 26-15 and 171-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is vested with powers for the management of natural resources owned or controlled by the State, and their disposition as may be provided by law. The Board is composed of seven members, one from each land district and three at-large, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Governor appoints the Chairperson of the Board from among its members. The Chairperson serves as the chief executive officer of the Department.

Bureau of Conveyances

The Bureau of Conveyances, under chapter 502, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is responsible for maintaining accuracy in record keeping and for eliminating errors in land title registration. It maintains comprehensive records of documents regarding land titles and makes copies of land records available to various agencies and individuals. Certificates of title on registered land issued by the Bureau are guaranteed by the State against the loss, damage, or deprivation of land, estate, or interest in the land, arising through the fault of the assistant registrars in the performance of their duties. Hawaii is the only state in the nation with a single statewide recording office.

Aquatic Resources Division

The Aquatic Resources Division manages Hawaii's marine and freshwater resources through programs in commercial fisheries; aquatic resources protection, enhancement, and education; and recreational fisheries. Major programs include projects to manage commercial fisheries on a sustainable basis, protect native and resident aquatic species and their habitats, and provide facilities and opportunities for recreational fishing.

Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation

The Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation manages the State's small boat harbors and statewide ocean recreation and coastal area programs pertaining to the ocean waters and navigable streams of the State. The Division provides permits for ocean recreation events such as yacht races, canoe regattas, surfing, and board sailing contests. The Division also regulates commercial activities such as thrill craft operations and competing ocean recreation activities in nearshore waters.

Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement

The Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement is responsible for enforcing all state laws relating to conservation and resources. The Division, with full police powers, enforces all state laws and rules involving state lands, state parks, historical sites, forest reserves, aquatic life and wildlife areas, coastal zones, conservation districts, shorelines, and small boat harbors.

Division of Forestry and Wildlife

The Division of Forestry and Wildlife is responsible for the management of state-owned forests, natural area reserves, public hunting areas, and plant and wildlife sanctuaries. Responsibility is statewide for watershed and endangered species protection, wildland fire suppression, public trails and access, and game management programs. Cooperative natural resource programs are also planned and implemented on privately owned forest lands through natural area partnerships, forest stewardship programs, urban forestry projects, and other agreements.

Land Division

Planning Branch. The Planning Branch's mandate is to ensure environmentally responsible regulatory management of lands within the State of Hawaii Conservation District. The State of Hawaii Conservation District includes almost half the State's total land area, as well as all nearshore waters classified as submerged state land.

The State has both public and private lands classified as conservation lands. It is the Planning Branch's responsibility to act as the zoning authority for proposed and ongoing activities on both public and private lands classified as conservation. To accomplish this task, the Planning Branch coordinates the actions of the many agencies within the Department to regulate activities on Conservation District lands.

The Planning Branch also has the responsibility to develop land management policy. Under the direction and supervision of the Land Division administration, the Planning Branch

develops departmental policy regarding the State's resources. For example, the Hawaii Coastal Erosion Management Plan is intended to guide both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in making decisions on managing Hawaii's coastal lands.

The Coastal Lands Program, developed within the Planning Branch, implements the Hawaii Coastal Erosion Management Plan. It also conducts environmental, economic, and engineering studies of Hawaii's precious shoreline areas. The Coastal Lands Program acts as the lead state agency in the development and implementation of shoreline restoration and protection projects.

The Planning Branch works with other sectors of government such as federal, county, and other state agencies. The Land Division articulates DLNR's position on possible environmental impacts of proposed projects and actions by federal, county, and other state agencies on Conservation District Lands.

Engineering Branch. The Engineering Branch administers the State's programs in water resource planning, mineral resources assessment, geothermal development, flood control and prevention, dam safety, and soil and water conservation. The Branch also provides engineering services to other DLNR divisions.

State Historic Preservation Division

The State Historic Preservation Division works to preserve reminders of earlier times which link the past to the present. The Division strives to accomplish this goal through maintaining an inventory of historic properties, administering the historic preservation review process, providing economic incentives, supporting five island burial councils, developing public information and education projects, and conducting preservation planning.

Division of State Parks

The Division of State Parks is responsible for the administration of the State Park System and the State's recreation planning program. The Division plans, constructs, operates, and maintains state park facilities, and measures the compliance of concessionaires with its program requirements. Basic activities are divided between two programs of the state budgeting system: Heritage and Recreation Parks, and General Administration for Culture and Recreation.

Attached for Administrative Purposes

Commission on Water Resource Management

The Commission on Water Resource Management, established under section 174C-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, has exclusive jurisdiction in all matters relating to the implementation and administration of the State Water Code, chapter 174C, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The

Commission consists of six members, including the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources who serves as Chairperson of the Commission, and the Director of Health who serves as an ex officio voting member. The four remaining members are appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate, from a list submitted by a nominating committee. The nominating committee is composed of four individuals chosen as follows: two persons appointed by the Governor; one person appointed by the President of the Senate; and one person appointed by the Speaker of the House. The committee solicits applications and sends to the Governor the names of at least three individuals for each open position.

Animal Species Advisory Commission

The Animal Species Advisory Commission, established under section 197-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, may advise the Board of Land and Natural Resources on every proposal for the deliberate introduction of aquatic life and wildlife by the Department into any habitat within the State. The Commission may also advise the Board on any matter affecting the taking and conservation of aquatic life and wildlife including proposed rules.

The Commission consists of thirteen members appointed by the Governor: the Chairperson of each Aquatic Life and Wildlife Advisory Committee established in each of the counties under section 197-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes; three members of the Department designated by the Chairperson of the Department, one each from the professional fields of aquatic life, wildlife, and conservation and resources enforcement; and six scientists in the fields of botany, mammalogy, ichthyology, entomology, ornithology, and invertebrate zoology.

Hawaii Historic Places Review Board

The Hawaii Historic Places Review Board, established under section 6E-5.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, holds public hearings and places historic properties into the Hawaii Register of Historic Places on the basis of their value to Hawaii's heritage, and recommends the nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places. The Board may also hear appeals of departmental historic preservation decisions.

The Board consists of ten members appointed by the Governor, including two professionally qualified members from each of the disciplines of archaeology, architecture, history, and sociology, and one member knowledgeable in traditional Hawaiian society and culture.

Natural Area Reserves System Commission

The Natural Area Reserves System Commission, established under section 195-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, conducts studies of areas for possible inclusion within a reserves system and recommends criteria for the determination of suitability for inclusion within the reserves system. The Commission also recommends policies for the control and use of reserves system areas and

advises the Governor and the Department on matters relating to the preservation of unique natural resources.

The Commission consists of thirteen members, six of whom possess qualifications in wildlife or marine biology, botany, forestry, ecology, resource management, biogeography, zoology, or geology; one member has membership in a hiking organization organized in the State, and one member has membership in a hunting organization organized in the State. The remaining five members are the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Superintendent of Education, the Director of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, and the President of the University of Hawaii, who serve as ex officio voting members. The Chairperson is appointed by the Governor from among the appointed members of the Commission.

Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission

The Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission, established under section 6K-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is empowered with jurisdictional oversight of the management and restoration of Kahoolawe. The Commission establishes criteria, policies, and controls for permissible uses within Kahoolawe. The Commission also provides the Governor and the Department with advice on any matter relating to Kahoolawe. The seven members, who are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, include the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, a member of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana, a trustee or representative of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a county official appointed by the Governor from a list provided by the Mayor of Maui, two members appointed by the Governor from a list provided by the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana, and one member appointed by the Governor from a list provided by native Hawaiian organizations. The Governor appoints the Chairperson from among the Commission members.

